American Red Cross Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Dear Newcomer,

The Fort Sill American Red Cross takes great pleasure in welcoming you to the Lawton/Fort Sill Community. We would like to take this opportunity to advise you of the services and support we are able to provide for service members' and/or their families stationed at Fort Sill. Activities affecting health, welfare, and morale to service personnel attached or assigned to military units at Fort Sill, their families, and patients at Reynolds Army Community Hospital (RACH). We provide deployment briefings to soldiers and their families, briefings to wives new to the Fort Sill Community and to clubs and organizations on Fort Sill. The Red Cross at Fort Sill works closely with the Red Cross Great Plains Chapter in Lawton.

The Fort Sill Red Cross **DEPENDS ON DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS** such as yourself to carry out our MISSION of quality service to the Armed Forces and their families. Whether you are "**JUST PASSING THROUGH**" or expect to spend a "**FULL TOUR**" at Fort Sill, the Red Cross offers many opportunities for you to get involved in volunteer opportunities.

Red Cross orientations are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at RACH. Contact the volunteer office at 458-2132 for more information.

The **Red Cross Volunteers** in the Fort Sill community provide a variety of services in various areas. These areas are located throughout RACH and dental clinics. The Red Cross provides childcare for volunteers with children between the ages of 6 weeks up to 5 years old.

Red Cross Volunteer Opportunities are as follows:

<u>Mother's Outreach Program:</u> Volunteers visit new mothers on the OB ward and provide an information packet and layette set for those families of E-4 and below. They make follow-up phone calls to mothers who request it, and refer those wishing a home visit to the Army Community Service (ACS) Parent Support Program Coordinator.

<u>Greeters:</u> This program was initiated in March of 1999. The Greeters are located at the clinic entrance of the hospital. The volunteers greet visitors to the hospital and if information regarding the location of a clinic, ward or department is needed, the Greeter will escort the patient to their destination. This is a wonderful service to our patients.

<u>Dental Assisting Program:</u> This program is 500 hours of instruction and training, which you must complete to receive your Dental Assistant certificate. This program is for military family members only and is held annually in the fall.

<u>VolunTeen Program:</u> This summer program is for teens 13-18 years old. After the teen orientation is held, placement is made to an area that requests a teen volunteer. This is a great opportunity to be in a working environment. This program is a wonderful asset to RACH and the Fort Sill community.

Other Areas: There are numerous areas in the hospital where you can volunteer. If you have medical experience or are thinking of going into the medical profession, this is a way to find out where your interest might lie. The opportunities are varied, and there is a place for each volunteer.

Armed Forces Emergency Service (AFES) Center is one of the most utilized services, which provides **Reporting & Emergency Communications.** Keeps military personnel in contact with their families following a death or serious illness of an immediate family member or the birth of a child. This service provides fast, reliable information for military commanders to make decisions regarding emergency leave. The Red Cross may arrange **Financial Assistance** in the form of an **Interest Free Loan** for travel expense. These funds, which may be authorized for other emergencies as well, are disbursed on the basis of need.

The Red Cross helps military families with **Non-Urgent problems** by providing **Information Referral and Guidance.** These services can help military families understand and apply for assistance from appropriate referral agencies, provide assistance in arranging family support, or even help resolve anxieties about loved ones. Remember, "**Help**" is only a phone call away through our 24-hour number **442-2426.**

Red Cross Great Plains Chapter serves the Lawton/Fort Sill community with Health & Safety and Disaster Services. The Chapter offers Health and Safety courses such as CPR, First Aid, Babysitting, Lifeguard courses and more. Disaster Services provides Emergency Services to families, also shelter and food during a disaster. For more information regarding these services, please call the Great Plains Chapter.

Funding for Red Cross Programs is from designated contributions to CFC and United Way, as well as individual contributions by the American public.

Your Red Cross Offices are:

Fort Sill Red Cross RACH 2 East 458-2132/3144 Armed Forces Emergency Service Center 24 HOUR SERVICE 442-2426 or 1-877-272-7337 Great Plains Chapter 401 W Gore Blvd Lawton, OK 73501 355-2480/8180